### **ESSER LEA Funds Update**

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### **Common Terms**

- ESSER: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund
- LEA: Local Education Entity (in Vermont, this is our Supervisory Unions and Supervisory Districts (SU/SDs)
- Period of performance: the period of time in which an LEA needs to obligate or encumber its funds. Any funds not obligated must be returned to the federal government

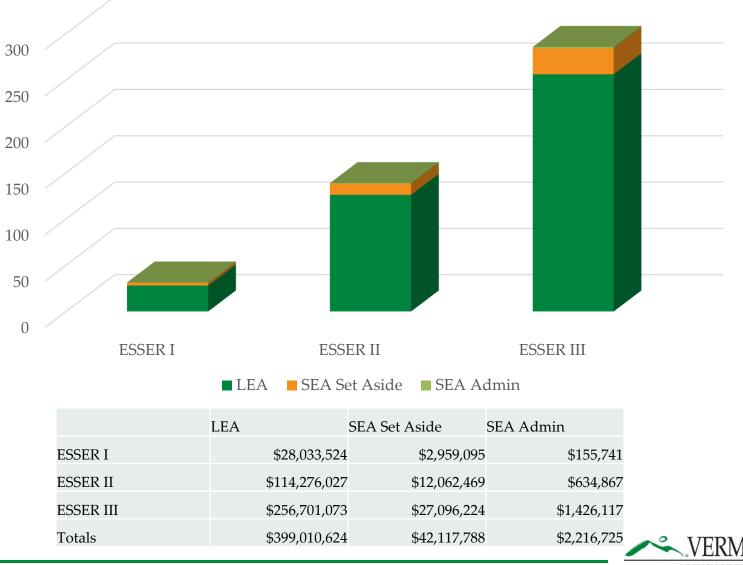


### **Transparency Dashboards**

- The AOE has created two transparency dashboards on the <u>Education Recovery</u> <u>and Revitalization website</u>
- ESSER and GEER LEA dashboard
- ESSER State Level funds dashboard



#### **ESSER I, II and ARP ESSER**



**AGENCY OF EDUCATION** 

## Summary of LEA-level ESSER I

 Period of performance ended September 30, 2022

Awarded	Paid	Remaining Funds
\$28,096,135.95	\$25,916,594.71	\$2,179,541.24

The majority of the remaining funds have been expended by LEAs. The AOE has until January 30, 2023 to pay out the remaining reimbursement requests and close this grant program.



## Summary of LEA-level ESSER II

 Period of performance ends September 30, 2023

Awarded	Paid	Remaining Funds
\$114,275,365.87	\$72,395,123.34	\$41,880,242.53



## Summary of LEA-level ARP ESSER

 Period of performance ends September 30, 2024

Awarded	Paid	Remaining Funds
\$239,904,904.20	\$25,488,211.97	\$214,416,692.23



# How are SU/SDs using their ESSER funds?



### **Big Takeaways**

- SU/SDs are spending their ESSER dollars
  - ESSER I grants are in closeout and are almost 100% expended
- SU/SDs are focused on using ESSER funds to support student learning and the impacts of the pandemic (53% of total spending)
- SU/SDs are using ESSER funds to invest in Safe and Healthy Schools (23% of total spending)
  - Direct pandemic needs (nurses, PPE)
  - Investments in facilities (HVAC, outdoor learning spaces, etc)



## **SU/SDs Identify Needs**

- In June 2021 SU/SDs were required to submit Education Recovery Plans, based on needs assessments conducted in winter and spring of 2021. In June 2022 they submitted Outcomes and Next Steps reports that they were able to use in developing their ARP ESSER applications and Continuous Improvement Plans.
- The AOE requires that ARP ESSER (and encouraged ESSER II) investments are aligned with the Education Recovery pillars of:
  - Student Engagement,
  - Socialemotional and Mental Health,
  - Academic Achievement and
  - Safe and Healthy Schools
- <u>National NAEP data</u> on math and literacy scores became available in October 2022 to help inform areas of need.



### **ESSER Highlights**

• Chittenden County SU/SDs are investing heavily in academic supports (\$13.6 million across 5 SU/SDs) through hiring specialists in literacy, math and special education; purchasing assessment/screening tools to track student outcomes; investing in technology, materials and resources to support instruction; and investing in high-quality instructors through professional development



### **ESSER Highlights (continued)**

• **Kingdom East** (\$2 million), **Maple Run** (\$2.9 million) and **Southwest VT** (\$2.3 million) have invested in expanding access to learning experiences to address academics and wellness through afterschool and summer programming. This includes transportation costs, staffing, and materials and supplies.



## **ESSER Highlights (continued)**

- Addison Central has invested \$1.1 million to address Socialemotional and Mental Health needs through community liaisons, nurses, counselors and professional development.
- Montpelier Roxbury is using \$1.6 million to invest in safe and healthy schools through HVAC upgrades and improvement to learning spaces
- Windsor Central is using \$1.1 million to purchase classroom technology and infrastructure to create 21<sup>st</sup> century learning for students and educators



### Challenges and Opportunities for SU/SDs

- Capacity in schools to manage funds, make space for strategic planning and implement programs in a short timespan
- Challenges in finding highly qualified contractors and vendors to carry out critical work (facilities/construction, professional development, supply chain delays)
- Planning for the FY 25 budget when ARP ESSER funding ends→ identifying what works and how to support student needs and outcomes after September 2024.

